



500.39863X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M. Tsuruki, et al.
Application No.: 09/787,720
Filed: March 22, 2001
For: VERTICAL FURNACE AND WAFER BOAT FOR VERTICAL FURNACE
Group: 3749
Examiner: G. Wilson

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 10, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as listed in the following, and as set forth on the following pages:

Amendments to the Claims; and

Remarks are included following the amendments.

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and Group III claims in the same application would not constitute an undue burden on the Examiner, such that both groups of claims should be examined in the same application. Cf. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 803.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement insofar as applied to the Group I and Group III claims, and consideration of the Group I and Group III claims together on the merits in the present application, are respectfully requested.

In any event, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims, that is, claims 1, 2 and 9-11, and respectfully request that at least the Group I claims be considered on the merits in the above-identified application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.39863X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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